

Dallas took time to phone home to get caught up with his family and hear news from Texas.

He was a dedicated soldier who earned the respect of those around him. Sergeant Frederick Wysingle, who recruited SPC Dallas in July 2003, said he was the perfect soldier. He was proud of the work he was doing and had just relayed to his family news that his platoon had recently curbed insurgent activity in Iraq. Promoted two months prior to his death from private first class, his promotion was made official two days after he died.

Just a few weeks prior to his death, Army Specialist Ernest Dallas, Jr. sent an engagement ring to his girlfriend. He was truly a soldier who understood his duty, and planned for a future beyond his service to his country.

It was my honor to represent Army Specialist Ernest Dallas, Jr., and I extend my deepest sympathies to his family and friends. He will be deeply missed and his service was greatly appreciated.

#### RECOGNIZING BRANDON JAMES MYNATT FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

##### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Brandon James Mynatt of Kansas City, Missouri, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout. Brandon will receive his Eagle at a Court of Honor on September 18 at Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church.

Brandon has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the years Brandon has been involved with scouting he has earned numerous merit badges and has served in leadership positions within his troop.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Brandon James Mynatt for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout. It is an honor to represent Eagle Scout Mynatt in the United States Congress.

#### CONGRATULATING THE LAWRENCE COUNTY BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

##### HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Lawrence County Builders Association (LCBA), on the 25th anniversary of its founding.

Over the past 25 years the LCBA has worked diligently to provide support services to its builder and associate members. This nonprofit trade association has also worked tirelessly with the National Association of Home Builders and Pennsylvania Builders Association to create a positive regulatory and legislative environment to keep housing and

general construction affordable. I recognize the LCBA for all of their hard work and dedication to education and professional development for all of its members.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the 25th anniversary of the LCBA. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute such a principled organization as the Lawrence County Builders Association.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF PFC RAMON A. VILLATORO, JR.

##### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember the life of Private First Class Ramon A. Villatoro, Jr., who lost his life supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Mr. Villatoro, 19, joined the United States Army on July 24, 2004. He attended Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Shortly thereafter, he reported to his first assignment at the Replacement Detachment. Within a few days, Mr. Villatoro's leadership and dedication was recognized and he was assigned to the K Troop, 3rd Squadron, and 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment on January 7, 2005. Mr. Villatoro was committed to his role in his Primary Military Occupational Specialty, as a 19D, Cavalry Scout.

Mr. Villatoro was deployed to protect our country in Operation Iraqi Freedom on March 3, 2005. Prior to leaving on his envoy to Iraq, Mr. Villatoro was promoted to Private First Class (PFC). Unfortunately, Mr. Villatoro's tour in Iraq ended when an improvised explosive device detonated near his military vehicle on July 24, 2005.

Mr. Villatoro's strength of character and valor earned him well-deserved recognition, including: Army Good Conduct Medal (Posthumous); National Defense Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Combat Action Badge (Posthumous). He also received the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumous); and the Weapons Qualification Badge, which certified him as an expert in certain rifle weaponry. Finally, Mr. Villatoro was awarded a Purple Heart, currently the oldest military decoration in the world, awarded to members of the armed forces who are wounded or killed in the line of action.

Surviving Mr. Villatoro is his wife of eight months, Amanda Villatoro. Mrs. Villatoro is expecting their first child in three months. Also surviving Mr. Villatoro is his family, all of whom reside in Bakersfield, CA.

I would like to extend my heartfelt sympathy and condolences, to Mr. Villatoro's family, for the loss of his life. His loss symbolizes the ultimate sacrifice one can make for his country. His service represented his commitment to protect his family, community, and our Nation. Mr. Villatoro's dedication to the principles of freedom and democracy will serve as an example to all of us, for generations to come.

#### COMMENDING THE PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE STEERING COMMITTEE

##### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I first would like to extend my thanks towards the committee, for inviting me to partake in today's celebration.

Since its inception, The Puerto Rican Day Parade of WNY, Inc, has brought the history and heritage of Hispanics to the forefront of this areas long standing cultural legacy. The Puerto Rican Day Parade allows people from all over western New York to come and enjoy themselves as they preserve a part of there culture.

This parade does not only supply this community with a day long celebration of beauty and pride, but empowers the community by celebrating the history of Puerto Rico.

And lastly the parade supplies a positive outlook for this community. This parade is a example of how prosperous a future the Hispanic community has, and its prominent role in the direction of western New York.

Thanks to the selfless and tireless efforts of this committee, for the last 3 years the Puerto Rican community has had the ability to collectively share and embrace there heritage right here in Buffalo.

I, Congressman BRIAN HIGGINS, on behalf of the 27th Congressional District, would like to show my gratitude towards the committee.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 6, 2005, I was unable to vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 360, commemorating the 60th anniversary of V-J Day and the end of World War II in the Pacific (rollcall vote 454); and on the motion to suspend the rules and pass as amended, S.J. Res. 19, Calling on the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 30th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act (rollcall vote 455). Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both measures.

#### IN MEMORY OF THOMAS HERRION

##### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 7, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give tribute to Thomas Herrion, from Fort Worth, Texas, and his passion for life. He died at the tender age of 23 after collapsing in the San Francisco 49ers locker room following a National Football League exhibition game.

Thomas was one of seven children growing up in south Fort Worth. He often played the drums at church where his father was the minister. While attending Polytechnic High School,